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SHABBOS MENU

**FOOD FOR
THOUGHT
TO SPARK
CONVERSATION**

PART OF THE CCHF SHABBOS TABLE MACHSOM L'FI PROGRAM • PARSHAS KI SEITZEI 5782 • ISSUE 307

CREDIBLE TESTIMONY

How do people know that your effort to bring to light someone's misdeeds is sincere? How do they know you're only trying to right a wrong?

T H E

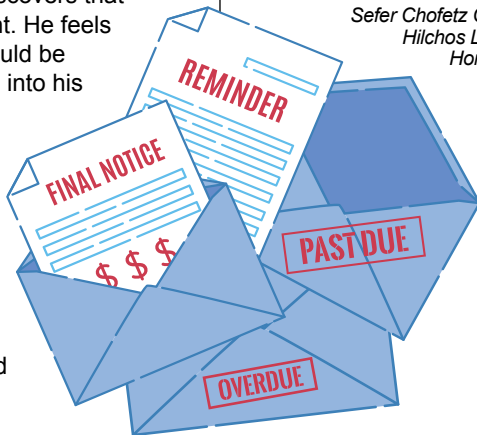
DILEMMA

Yechiel's motto in life is, "I don't pay until I have to." The town is populated with tradesmen and professionals who have expended far more than their fair share of effort wresting payment out of Yechiel's hands. Not only does he delay payment, but he debates the charges and usually wins concessions. "Better to at least get something from him," they reason.

Yosef is the neighbor of the latest of Yechiel's victims, hard-working Jonathan, who installed a sprinkler system in his lawn in the spring. As the leaves turn red and fall on his lush lawn, Yechiel has not paid the first dollar he owes. With a little investigative work, Yosef discovers that Jonathan is not alone in his plight. He feels strongly that Yechiel's game should be exposed before more people fall into his trap.

"Yechiel owes people all over town," Yosef tells five men as they leave a weekly shiur. "It's his thing. He just doesn't pay. He owes Jonathan thousands, but he's not alone. People need to know this about him."

Does Yosef's report serve a valid constructive purpose?



T H E

HALACHAH

It succeeds in its constructive purpose of spreading awareness of Yechiel's damaging behavior; although the listeners can only suspect, and not accept it as the truth, they will realize that Yosef would not make such a statement in public if it were false. He would know that the statement will be repeated and any lie will eventually be revealed.

*Sefer Chofetz Chaim,
Hilchos Loshon
Hora 10:7*

PARTICIPANTS SPEAK

There are no words to thank you for this amazing zechus of sending the halachos every day without fail. It is the first time I have really managed to keep up my daily halachah learning, and I really feel that the more times I do the cycle the more it becomes internalized in my bones!

Tizku l'mitzvos.

FOR QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS, EMAIL

Shabbosmenu@cchfglobal.org

"If a person keeps to himself, he is not *pursuing* peace. Rather, he should go out and *actively* look for ways to make peace wherever he can."

– Avos D'Rav Nosson 12:6

Reviewed by Rabbi Moshe Mordechai Lowy. For discussion only; actual halachic decisions should be made by a rav or halachic expert on a case-by-case basis.

SPONSORED L'ILUI NISHMAS
MALKA BREINDEL A"H BAS SHMUEL FISHEL YLCH"Y

Stories of superhuman *ahavas Yisrael* are characteristic of our *gedolim*. However, we might doubt that we, in the course of our more ordinary lives, could touch those heights. Nevertheless, the “ordinary” Jewish heart is far greater than we might realize, as this story, which happened two decades ago, portrays:

Rabbi Davis’s Avos U’Banim learning group, like hundreds across the country, brought fathers and sons together every Motza’ei Shabbos to learn Torah. To keep up the enthusiasm, each session ended with a raffle. On the last Avos U’Banim of the year, the boys breathlessly awaited the results of the “grand raffle.” The winner would receive a shiny new bike.

Heshy, a 10-year-old boy whose family circumstances were difficult, was one of the regular attendees. That night, he hoped with all his heart that he would go home the owner of a new bike. As Rabbi Davis called out the numbers of the winning raffle, Heshy’s mind was flooded with his hopes and dreams.

“The winning number,” said Rabbi Davis dramatically, “is 5-0-8-9-3.” Daring to look down at his ticket, Heshy read his number: “5-0-9-8-3.”

“I won! I won!” he cried, running to the front of the room. Rabbi Davis was thrilled for the young boy, who so desperately needed this boost. He led the other boys in a cheer for Heshy, and Heshy proudly wheeled his new bike through the room and out the door. The crowd dissipated.

However, one father and son did not leave. In the empty room, they approached Rabbi Davis and said, “We have the winning ticket. The other boy must have

sage advice

PEACE MISSION

Levi didn’t stop to stir up trouble. He tried to accept every person for who he was and to overlook the occasional injustices that came his way. His inner landscape was one of blue skies and rolling hills.

Levi’s wife Rivka was also a contented, sunny person, but one thing shook her equanimity. She hated to see strife of any kind. Rifts between friends, family feuds, heated shul politics—they all made Rivka feel unsettled. Often, her discomfort drove her to take the initiative in fixing the situation.

“Be like Aaron the Kohen. Love peace and pursue peace,” Pirkei Avos instructs. Like Levi, most people love peace; it’s the most emotionally comfortable state. But to be like Aaron, one must love peace as a separate entity. One must long for the measure of peace in the world to increase. That love for peace turns a person into a pursuer of peace, a person who can’t endure the presence of strife anywhere in his world, and will do his best to repair the rift.

TALK ABOUT IT

What are some ways to “pursue peace” without becoming involved in someone else’s argument?

AND THE WINNER IS....

misread his number.” Rabbi Davis compared their ticket to the number he had

drawn, and indeed, they were the real winners.

“Why didn’t you say something?” Rabbi Davis asked.

“How could we embarrass the boy?” the father replied simply.

Twenty years later, none of the parties involved remember how it was resolved. Did someone buy the rightful winner a bike? Did Heshy ever become aware of his mistake? The details faded, but the moment of shining *ahavas Yisrael* hasn’t faded. And the winner was: everyone.

All names have been changed.

TALK ABOUT IT

How do you think the boy who lost out on the raffle prize was able to accept the situation?



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